

August 13, 1999

Mr. Wayne Nordwall, Area Director
Phoenix Area Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs
P.O. Box 10
Phoenix, AZ 85001-0010

RE: Relocation of BIA Roads Shop/Yard in Owyhee, Nevada

Dear Mr. Nordwall:

On behalf of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, I would like to request the relocation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Roads Shop/Yard. Currently, the Roads Shop/Yard is located in the town of Owyhee. We propose that the Roads Shop be moved to our Tribal Industrial Area for a variety of reasons which are:

- Construction or reuse of the site in the area of contamination represents a health risk to members of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes. It lies in an aquifer recharge zone with a 10-18' water table. Reuse of the site has the potential of contaminating the aquifer much in the same manner that has occurred in the past.
- The current Roads Shop/Yard site is heavily contaminated with petroleum hydrocarbons and other toxic contaminants. The actual Roads Shop building contains friable asbestos and lead paint. The Roads Shop/Yard contains the pesticide Dinoseb and the extent of the Dinoseb contamination has not yet been defined.
- The Roads Shop/Yard is currently located in a residential area and is adjacent to the local schools. Moving the Roads Shop to our industrial area would help protect human health and the environment in Owyhee, Nevada.

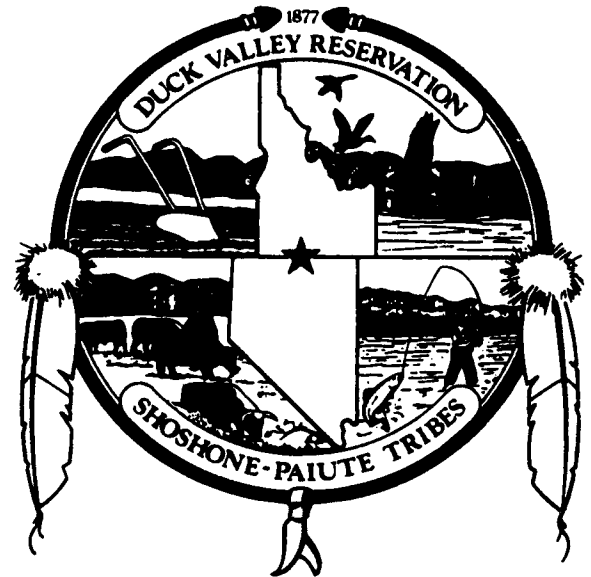
Please feel free to contact our Tribes when planning a new location for the BIA Roads Shop. We will be pleased to assist you in a new location.

Sincerely,



MARVIN COTA, Tribal Chairman
Shoshone-Paiute Tribes

xc: Herman Atkins, Tribal Administrator
Lee Roberts, Environmental Director
Marcie Phillips, Solid Waste Coordinator
Tribal Council Members
Chester Mills, Acting Superintendent, BIA, ENA
John Krause, Area Environmental Scientist
Hillary Hecht, US-EPA, Region 9



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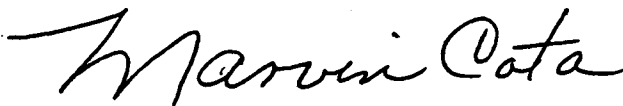
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